



Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen

www.rbcrafts.org

First Quarter 2016 Newsletter

President's Message

Happy New Year 2016! It is always exciting to start a new year with great expectations for it and I for one am looking forward to 2016. We of course as a Guild had a few ups and downs in 2015. The cancellation of the Spring Show was not a good thing but with much determination and hard work our Holiday Show was a success with increased attendance and an amazing cast of our juried craftsmen and artists created a Holiday Spectacular. We ended the year with a beautiful night of great food and friendships shared at the Yellow House Hotel in December. In 2016, I would love to see more of our members and guests attend our monthly meetings. Matt Vardjan, our program chair, does a great job in getting some great programs for us throughout the year. On January 5, 2016, our first general meeting for 2016, we will be doing an activity for our program. Sounds like fun! Attending the general meetings of our Guild is a great and active way of participating in your Guild. I know we all have a lot to do and life is just plain hectic; but if you attend even just a few of the meetings during the course of year, I believe you will feel more informed. I know that I value our craftsmen's opinions and ideas and I find your input a valuable tool in the workings of your Guild. I leave you with this final note: I know it seems like we just finished with our Holiday show and here it is already....Tadahhhh! Our Spring Fine Arts and Crafts Festival. The contract is signed and the dates are April 2 and 3, 2016, at the beautiful Kutztown University Fieldhouse. Get those applications in. The show committee has never stopped working.

"Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for; it is a thing to be achieved." William Jennings Bryan, American lawyer and statesman.

Your President, Barry L. Bennecoff

Festivals

Hello to all in 2016,

We will have our next meeting on the 5th of January, right before the General meeting. This is a VERY important meeting wrapping up 2015 and starting all over again, anew for 2016.

We'd like to thank everyone that had anything to do with our Guild Show. We had a very interesting year for the shows. From the bottom with a heart breaking canceled show in the spring; to the top with the best holiday show we have had for many years. We have a lot of data to go through to see were, what, how and, hope to have the answer about the success for our future shows.

We are looking for anyone with talents to join us with our ever changing shows. It takes a village to keep our cost down, and to continue give a top notch designer, Master Craftsmen, Juried fine Art shows. We strive to give our patrons the best of the best products all one of a kind, **And Made in America.**

Thank all of you for your support. Please get your applications in for very hot show coming the first weekend in April. (The week after Easter.)

Thanks from

Terry & Judy Boyer Show chairs

Programs

For our January meeting we have a surprise program which promises to get everyone involved. The program schedule is still being worked. The Mini-Grant winner presentations is typically in March and the newly juried members is typically in April. I will keep you posted about the dates of these programs and new programs as they are added.

Matt Vardjan, Program Chairman

Education

Mini-Grants:

Four (4) Mini Grants, in the amount of \$50 each will be randomly drawn at the Reading-Berks Chapter's regularly scheduled meeting at the Goggleworks on Tuesday, April 5, 2016.

Winners will be drawn from applications (completed in full) and submitted by the deadline of Monday, March 21, 2016. Entries must be received at our Reading-Berks Chapter PGC, ATTN. Carol Haile, Post Office Box 85, Mohnton, PA 19540 by that date. Those received after that date will not be included in the drawing.

The Mini-Grant application is attached at the end of this newsletter and may also be found at <http://rbcrafts.org/our-guild/education/>

We are looking forward to hearing the presentations from our 2015 winners soon.

BCIU Art Exhibit:

On display at the Goggle Works from February 27 to March 13, 2016 11 AM to 7 PM with Awards Ceremony Sunday, March 6, 2016 1 to 3 PM (snow date 3/13/16). Through the Stanley G. Seltz Student Awards Program, Reading-Berks Guild of Craftmen offers cash awards to students who exemplify high levels of design, mastery and use of materials.

Carol Haile, Education Chairman

Standards

The next jury session is March 8, 2016. Check the website or contact Louise Mehaffey, eglassplace@gmail.com for more information.

Louise Mehaffrey, Standards Chairman

Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center

Saturday, December 5, 2015 was a beautiful crisp day for Christmas on the Farm. Attendance topped 1,000 for this event, and downtown Kutztown also held their 2nd annual Holiday event, so it brought many people out for the first time to PGCHC.

Our next event will be Easter on the Farm to be held the day before Palm Sunday, Saturday, March 19, 2016, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We can accommodate more artisans in the Guild's Log Cabin. We can always count on Barry Bennecoff to display his furniture and cabinets throughout the cabin, which gives many opportunities to display other work on and in these beautiful pieces of furniture. (and Barry would be delighted to display your work on his furniture -- it would help him in that he wouldn't need to bring accessories). Matt and Elaine Vardjan are always in the alcove area of the stairway with their Moravian Star creations.

The only fee is a 15% commission to PGCHC payable to Kutztown University for your sales of the day.

Hope you'll consider this event and add it to your 2016 show schedule. Contact Amanda Richardson at PGCHC if you plan to participate so that your name can be included in the program. In addition to the Guild's Log Cabin we have a large heated tent for vendors as well as outside spots where you may bring your own canopy to set up. We also have a tent for children's activities which is very popular with the children as well as the Easter Egg Hunts that day.

Pat Oxenford, PGCHC Advisory Board Secretary (Kutztown Rep)

Senior Course

Just to let you know that my son Scott and I will be teaching a short course at Alvernia University's "Senior College" in February, 2016. Alvernia is located near Reading, PA.

The course title will be "Exploring Key West Through Its Bars, Buildings, and Business Entrepreneurs." Scott will have the lead in this program; I'll be doing mostly history topics. The course will run one and a half -hours per day, for three Thursdays (11, 18, and 25 February 2016). The time period is 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Refreshments will be served and a "tropical atmosphere" will be maintained.

To attend, however, you must be a registered member (student) of the University's "Senior School." Details are at the following website:

<http://alvernia.edu/academics/seniorscollege/membership.html>

Bob Ballantyne

Media

For the month of December “Your Berks Craftsmen” featured Steve Hunter, master potter. It was fun interviewing Steve and he actually allowed me to become a potter that night. Don’t worry Steve, I was not able to convince Barry to buy me a ton of clay to create teapot handles. He thinks I need a little more instruction but thanks for the experience. In January, “Your Berks Craftsmen” will take us on a whirlwind tour of the Kutztown Folk Festival 2015. BCTV was on location and did a fantastic job. This is a show that will get you ready for the Folk Festival Experience 2016.

If you want to be a guest craftsman on “Your Berks Craftsmen” please let me know.

Your Host for BCTV, Kay Bennecoff

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

2015 ended with some of our members needing surgery & get well wishes. Everyone is well on their way for a good recovery. Please keep the following in thoughts, prayers and put a little “ray of sunshine” in their lives, by sending cards.

Louise Mehaffey	318 Village Drive, Blandon, PA 19510
Terry Boyer	414 Harvest Drive, Blandon, PA 19510
John Haile , Jr.	612 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611

2015 MEMORIAL TO OUR FORMER GUILD MEMBERS

Life is a journey of sweetness and sorrow, of yesterday’s memories and hope
for tomorrow,
Of pathways we choose and detours we face, with patience and humor, cour-
age and grace,
Of joys that we’ve shared and of people we’ve met, who have touched us in
ways we will never forget.

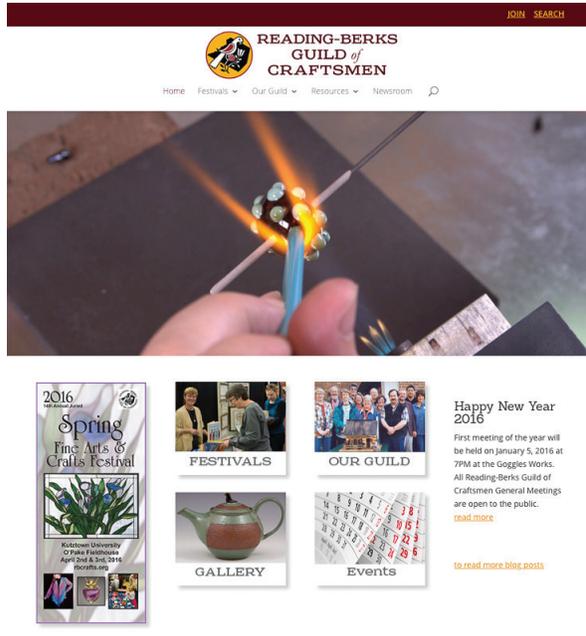
Sandra Jean Coldren * ***Chris Murray***
Bernadette Wargo * ***Brian Mariano***

MAY WE BE BLESSED WITH A HEALTHY, HAPPY, AND SAFE NEW YEAR IN 2016!

Carolyn Handwerk, Sunshine Girl

Snapshot of 2015

April -- New Website



May -- Taylor Backes Glass Field Trip



June -- Picnic at Gring's Mill



September -- Key West by Bob Ballantyne



October/November -- Holiday Show



December -- Holiday Social at Yellow House



READING-BERKS CHAPTER PGC
The W. Eugene Burkhart, Jr. Memorial Mini Grant
ANNUAL MINI GRANT APPLICATION 2016
READING-BERKS CHAPTER MEMBERS

INFORMATION:

Four (4) Mini Grants, in the amount of \$50 each will be randomly drawn at the Reading-Berks Chapter's regularly scheduled meeting at the Goggleworks on Tuesday, April 5, 2016.

Winners will be drawn from applications (completed in full) and submitted by the deadline of Monday, March 21, 2016. Entries must be received at our Reading-Berks Chapter PGC, ATTN. Carol Haile, Post Office Box 85, Mohnton, PA 19540 by that date. Those received after that date will not be included in the drawing.

Applications will be received from members of the Reading-Berks Chapter, PGC, having a current membership in both the chapter and state organizations, effective January 1, 2016. You need not be juried, but must have current membership status.

Applications may be applied to further your education in your craft ... you may use the grant to purchase books, tools, do research, take seminars or classes, attend workshop, etc. to further your knowledge in the art of your craft.

If chosen as one of the four winners, YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN, and you must use the grant within the calendar year 2016, (prior to December 31, 2016), or return the grant money.

As a Mini Grant Winner, you agree to give a 15 minute presentation at one of our general meetings. Please inform Carol Haile (inkpencjh@msn.com) when you have fulfilled your commitment for this Mini Grant and will be ready to present a program to the general membership. If you do not fulfill the requirements, the Mini Grant funds must be returned.

Please complete and return the bottom portion of this application. Retain the top portion and a copy of the lower application for your records.

* * * * * cut along this line * * * * *

APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Craft: _____

How will you use this grant money*:

Total cost of item, class, tool, etc. \$ _____

Less Mini Grant _____ 50.00

Your final "out of pocket" cost \$ _____

YES I agree to present a 15 minute program to the general membership on how I used my Mini Grant funds.

*If you need additional space, please use the back of this application section.

Important Dates to Remember

Chapter Meeting (1st Tuesday):

January 5, 2016 at 7 PM

February 2, 2016 - 7 PM

March 1, 2016 7 PM

Board Meeting: (last Wednesday)

January 27, 2016 at 7 PM

February 24, 2016 at 7 PM

March 30, 2016 at 7 PM

Spring Show: April 2 & 3, 2016

Application due March 1, 2016

Easter on the Farm Saturday, March 19, 2016, 10:00 AM to 4:00

Board of Directors

President, Barry Bennecoff	610-562-7226
Vice President, Ken Moyer	610-779-4126
Secretary, Kay Bennecoff	610-562-7226
Treasurer, John Haile	610-374-7048
Membership, June Moyer	610-779-4126
Standards, Louise Mehaffey	484-248-6301
Newsletter, Sandra Jones	610-779-5177

Committee Chairs

Shows, Judy & Terry Boyer	484-248-6275
Media, Kay Bennecoff	610-562-7226
Education, Carol Haile	610-374-7048
Program, Matt Vardjan	610-689-5324
Kutztown Rep., Pat Oxenford	610-385-3431
Sunshine, Carolyn Handwerk	610-693-8187
Website, Bill Jones	610-779-5177